REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, and 78-91 are pending. Applicant has cancelled claims 9, 76, and 77, and added claims 78-91. Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 6, 8, and 10.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 76-77 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Ram et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,625,258). Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the purpose of a "terminal object" and respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant's technology provides a common application programming interface (API) for controlling the media stream transmitted during a call. Applicant's technology allows various vendors to provide pluggable communication services by developing terminal objects. A telephony application can be written to take advantage of any terminal object registered on a system, and terminal objects allow easy expandability of the application to handle new technologies. For example, a terminal object written by one vendor that examines audio received over a call for dual-tone-multi-frequency tones (DTMF, also known as touch tones) can be an integral component of an interactive voice response system provided by another vendor that allows a caller to select menu choices by pressing a number on a phone's keypad. The same interactive voice response system may later be upgraded to allow a caller to speak the number of their menu selection rather than pressing it on the keypad simply by registering a terminal object capable of speech recognition. As another example, a voicemail system could be developed utilizing a terminal object capable of saving an audio stream to a file.

Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly point out the plugability of terminal objects and their relationship to applications that use them. Claim 1 recites, "selecting a terminal object from among a group of registered terminal objects adhering to a uniform interface, each providing specific functionality to process the media stream." Newly added independent claims 78 and 85 recite a similar step. Ram describes a proprietary system for providing various call services such as voicemail and automated receipt of faxes. Ram does not disclose objects providing various call services that adhere

to a common interface, and therefore does not anticipate Applicant's technology. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance.

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By_____

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